

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8-17 in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Please amend claim 4 and add new claims 18-21 as follows.

1. (Original) A side door structure of a vehicle of which side openings are covered by a front door and a rear door, said side door structure comprising:

a door hinge located at a front end of the front door for swingably supporting the front door; and

a door hinge located at a rear end of the rear door for swingably supporting the rear door, the door hinge for the rear door including a hinge pin which is inclined such that its upper end is located inward toward a center line of a vehicle body as viewed from the front of the vehicle and toward the rear of the vehicle body as viewed from the side of the vehicle.

2. (Original) The side door structure according to claim 1, the door hinge for the front door including a hinge pin which is inclined such that its upper end is located inward toward the center line of the vehicle body as viewed from the front of the vehicle and toward the front of the vehicle body as viewed from the side of the vehicle.

3. (Original) A side door structure of a vehicle of which side openings are covered by a front door and a rear door, said side door structure comprising:

a door hinge located at a front end of the front door for swingably supporting the front door, the door hinge for the front door including a hinge pin which is inclined such that its upper end is located inward toward a center line of a vehicle body as viewed from the front of the vehicle and toward the front of the vehicle body as viewed from the side of the vehicle; and

a door hinge located at a rear end of the rear door for swingably supporting the rear door.

4. (Currently Amended) A side door structure of a vehicle of which side openings are covered by a front door and a rear door, said side door structure comprising:
a pair of upper and lower door hinges located at a front end of the front door for swingably supporting the front door;
a pair of upper and lower door hinges located at a rear end of the rear door for swingably supporting the rear door; and
a door checker located beneath the door hinges supporting the rear door.

wherein said door hinge for the rear door including a hinge pin which is inclined such that its upper end is located inward toward a center line of a vehicle body as viewed from the front of the vehicle and toward the rear of the vehicle body as viewed from the side of the vehicle.

5. (Original) The side door structure according to claim 4, wherein each of the door hinges for the rear door includes a hinge pin which is inclined such that its upper end is located inward toward a center line of a vehicle body as viewed from the front of the vehicle and toward the rear of the vehicle body as viewed from the side of the vehicle.

6. (Original) The side door structure according to claim 5, wherein the door checker is located at a position offset inward toward the center line of the vehicle body by a specific distance from the location of the hinge pin of each door hinge for the rear door.

7. (Original) The side door structure according to claim 4, wherein the rear door is located at the front of a wheel arch for a rear wheel and the door checker is located at a position offset toward the front of the vehicle body from the location of the hinge pins of the door hinges for the rear door.

8.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A side door structure of a vehicle of which side openings are covered by a front door and a rear door, said side door structure comprising:

a pair of upper and lower door hinges located at a front end of the front door for swingably supporting the front door;

a pair of upper and lower door hinges located at a rear end of the rear door for swingably supporting the rear door; and

a door checker located beneath the door hinges supporting the rear door,

wherein said door hinge for the front door including a hinge pin which is inclined such that its upper end is located inward toward a center line of a vehicle body as viewed from the front of the vehicle and toward the front of the vehicle body as viewed from the side of the vehicle.

19. (New) The side door structure according to claim 4B, wherein each of the door hinges for the rear door includes a hinge pin which is inclined such that its upper end is located inward toward a center line of a vehicle body as viewed from the front of the vehicle and toward the rear of the vehicle body as viewed from the side of the vehicle.

20. (New) The side door structure according to claim 19, wherein the door checker is located at a position offset inward toward the center line of the vehicle body by a specific distance from the location of the hinge pin of each door hinge for the rear door.

21. (New) The side door structure according to claim 18, wherein the rear door is located at the front of a wheel arch for a rear wheel and the door checker is located at a position offset toward the front of the vehicle body from the location of the hinge pins of the door hinges for the rear door.